CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 84-15
NPDES NO. CA0004880

AN ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. 83-22 FOR:

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
PITTSBURG POWER PLANT
PITTSBURG, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter called the Board) finds that:

1. The Board, on June 23, 1983, adopted Order No. 83-22 (NPDES Permit No. CA0004880) prescribing Waste Discharge Requirements for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Pittsburg Power Plant (hereinafter discharger). This permit contained effluent limitations for three existing discharges. The discharges are as follows:

Discharge Outfall	Contributory Waste Stream	Annual Flow Average gpd
001	A. Once through cooling Water from Units 1 through 6	1 billion
	B. Low volume waste	
	001A Intake screen wash	150,000
	001B Clarifier and Filter blowdown and Reverse Osmosis Building Drains-Settling pond	97,000
	001C Reverse Osmosis Reject	220,000
	001D Boilers 1-6 Blowdown	24,000
	001E Ion Exchange Regeneration Waste	32,000
	001F Fireside/air preheater washes, boilers 1-7	2,700
	001G Oil-Water Separation	54,600
	C. 001H Cooling Tower Blowdown Unit 7	17 million
002	Yard drains discharge to Suisun Bay	5,000
003	Yard drains from fuel oil tanks 8-14 discharged to Willow Creek, a tributary of Suisun Bay	50,000

2. The discharger, in a letter dated September 13, 1983, requested that the current permit be amended to allow effluent from the metal cleaning waste pond to be discharged to the once-through cooling water

waste stream (Outfall 001), and hence into Suisun Bay. The discharges will occur three to six times per year following treatment of the pond contents and each discharge period will last approximately one week. The average annual discharge will be one (1) million gallons and the maximum annual discharge could be as much as one and one-half (1.5) million gallons annually. This represents an average daily flow of 50,000 gallons per day during the few weeks of discharge each year.

3. Discharge of wastewater from the metal cleaning waste pond has been requested because new cleaning techniques employed by PG&E now require more rinse water than was previously utilized, and the storage capacity of the metal cleaning waste pond cannot hold and evaporate all the effluent and still meet all freeboard requirements in the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The discharge consists of treated metal cleaning wastes. Using the present chemical cleaning methods, the wastes contain hydrochloric acid, hydroxyacetic-formic acid, ammonia compounds, sodium bromide, and metals. The discharge will comply with effluent guidelines promulgated by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

4. The metal cleaning waste pond discharge contains constituents which do not have promulgated effluent guidelines. Monitoring of these additional constituents is necessary to determine the efficiency of the discharger's predischarge pond treatment in removing these non-guideline constituents. It may be necessary in the future to include effluent limits for these non-guideline constituents in order to adequately protect water quality.

5. Based upon review of the water quality data for the metal cleaning waste pond, the Board's previous action with respect to the discharge, and the standards set forth in the Federal Guidelines for steam electric power plants, the Board finds that the beneficial uses of Suisun Bay are not likely to be significantly impaired if the effluent from the metal cleaning waste pond is allowed to be discharged into the Pittsburg Power Plant once-through cooling water system.

6. As this project is an NPDES Permit revision, this Board, pursuant to Water Code Section 13389, is not required to comply with the provisions of Chapter 3 of Division 13 of the Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act).

7. The Board has notified the discharger and interested persons and agencies of its intent to prescribe revised waste discharge requirements for the Pittsburg Power Plant.

8. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that this Board's Order No. 83-22 is amended as follows:

A. The following Contributory Waste Stream is added to Finding 2:

Discharge Outfall	Contributory Waste Stream	Annual Flow Average gpd
001	D. 001I Effluent from metal cleaning waste pond	2,700

B. The following effluent limitation is added, as Effluent Limitation B.5.:

Discharge D. 001I, metal cleaning waste pond effluent, shall not contain constituents in excess of the following:

Constituents	Units	30-Day Average	Maximum Daily
Total Suspended Solids	mg/l	30.0	100.0
Oil and Grease	mg/l	10.0	20.0
Copper, Total	mg/l	1.0	1.0
Iron, Total	mg/l	1.0	1.0

The quantity of these pollutants shall not exceed the quantity determined by multiplying the flow of metal cleaning wastes times the concentrations listed above.

C. The following provision is added, as General Provision 16:

The Board will evaluate data from the metal cleaning waste pond discharge operation within one year of adoption of this Order. Based on this review the Board may prescribe more stringent waste pond effluent limitations, and may include effluent limits for constituents currently not governed by the Federal Guidelines.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on April 18, 1984.

ROGER B. JAMES
Executive Officer